

AMERICAN DEFENDER

MAGAZINE OF THE FIRST AIR FORCE
JANUARY 2003



AGILE ARCHER 02

125th Fighter Wing trains
with the German Luftwaffe

COMMENTARY

THE FIRST WORD

A vision of homeland defense

Maj. Gen. Craig R. McKinley

1st Air Force commander

I know I speak for all of First Air Force and the Continental U.S. NORAD Region when I say; we are all deeply saddened by the loss of the brave souls of the Columbia. This tragedy claimed the lives of some of America's best and brightest, including five U.S. service members. Our thoughts are with the families of all the astronauts.

This sadness is tempered by a quiet confidence, knowing that our operations centers and fighter wings responded splendidly to this tragedy. We've supported Federal Emergency Management Agency with their search, find and secure efforts with radar, aircraft and our world-class command and control capabilities.

We've collected and provided radar and other data to NASA to aid in their investigation. I'm proud the men and women of CONR rose to the challenge, as they always have and performed this solemn service for our nation.

For the past six months, I've had the honor of leading 1st Air Force and CONR. During those months, I've realized that as a command, we have never been at a more crucial juncture. Now, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and in a time of international uncertainty, we have the opportunity to shape this organization to better

protect the homeland for years to come.

Our long-range vision is to transform what was once a Cold War "legacy mission" into an effective force to meet today's threat to homeland. We must look toward new technologies, new equipment and better facilities to help us do the job.

The Q-93 computer used by our surveillance technicians to monitor the skies over America was first fielded in the early 1980's. Facilities that were designed for less than 200 people have accommodated over twice as many for recent air sovereignty operations. This must change.

New, more capable computers and a new 88,000 square foot air operations center will help us with that transformation.

But no matter how technical our op-

"People are and will continue to be the cornerstone of our success."

erations become or how wide our mission expands, our people will continue to be our most treasured resource. We are blessed to have some of the best-trained people in the world and I pledge my support to them and their families. People are, and will continue to be, the cornerstone of our success.

As we entered 2003, we've found ourselves on the verge of a major conflict, where the battlefield could very well be here in the homeland. The United States is no longer a safe haven for freedom loving people. The hatred of those who would inflict harm on our citizens is not tempered by humane considerations. In the terrorist's hands, airliners that normally carry families and business travelers have become deadly guided missiles aimed at the symbols of our democracy. There is no limit to their audacity and cruelty.

The terrorists who crashed those planes into the twin towers and the Pentagon hate America. They hate us

not necessarily for what we've done, but for what we stand for: our enduring belief in freedom and justice, the right to govern ourselves and the right to live in safety and security.

The oceans that have protected this republic from the likes of Hitler, Stalin and Hirohito, no longer protect us from the insidious schemes of those bent on our destruction.

So as our leaders seek to preempt the unthinkable carnage weapons of mass destruction may wreak upon us, we must steel ourselves with the resolve of the warrior spirit.

In another time of conflict, Winston Churchill once compared the United States to a gigantic boiler; He said, "Once the fire is lighted under it, there is no limit to the power it can generate." We have seen that power, harnessed by a nation united in a fierce determination.

Today our mission is national survival and we are the first line of defense against airborne terror. We will not fail. So as we continue to transform air defense, let's light the fires and never forget we are warriors.



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Maj. Gen. David A. Deptula captured this image of a German Air Force MiG-29 in flight during Agile Archer 02. Deptula is the Air Combat Command director of plans and programs at Langley Air Force Base, Va.



Cheney speaks to Guard leaders



Staff Sgt. Darin Overstreet

Vice President Dick Cheney pauses for applause from the crowd during his speech at the Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference in Denver, Colo.

Vice president offers praise, raise and firm warning to Iraq

Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Colorado Air National Guard

The best tools, the best training and the best support. Vice President Dick Cheney told National Guard leaders at the 2002 Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference in Denver, Colo. that the best is what the men and women of the armed forces deserve.

In a brief appearance at Denver's Adam's Mark Ho-

tel, Cheney told an estimated 1,200 National Guard leaders from across the country that he is proud of the job the military has done and that national defense will continue to be a top priority. He backed that statement with the news of legislation, as well as an official pay raise.

"President Bush has signed into law the most significant increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan lived in the White House and today, the president will sign into law a pay raise for every member of the military," said Cheney. "We believe you deserve it."

Cheney thanked members of the Air National Guard for their service and characterized their role in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001 as remarkable.

"You have assumed an astonishing portion of the military missions in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom," said Cheney.

According to Cheney, approximately 11,000 of the 60,000 American troops deployed around the world are mobilized and volunteer members of the Air National Guard.

These Guardsmen are flying over three quarters of the combat air patrols that protect the United States mainland, delivering 40 percent of the airlift capacity in Afghanistan and 42 percent of the fighter aircraft used by the Air Expeditionary Forces.

The vice president added that Air National Guard pilots flew approximately 46,000 sorties between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 11, 2002.

Speaking just days before the Dec. 8 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iraq to disarm, Cheney warned leaders that in the fight against global terror, the battle must be taken to the enemy and that the end solution will most likely not be a treaty.

According to Cheney, a large portion of that path of action will come in the form of strong support from Washington to properly equip the nation's armed forces. "President Bush has often spoken of how America can keep the peace by redefining war on our terms. That means that our military — active duty, National Guard and Reserves — must have every tool to answer any threat that may emerge against us," said Cheney.

"But for all the progress we've made in the war on terror, one thing is abundantly clear; our nation is still in danger," said Cheney. "The threats to America are grave. As the President has said, 'our war on terror is well begun, but it is only begun. This campaign may not be finished on our watch, yet it must be and it will be waged on our watch.'"

Louisiana ANG aids shuttle efforts

159th FW jets assist multi-agency search for debris

Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

Air National Guard airmen joined the grim and painstaking search for debris from the Space Shuttle Columbia soon after it disintegrated during re-entry over Texas.

Two F-15 Eagles from the Louisiana Air Guard's 159th Fighter Wing began an aerial search for wreckage over the vast region of eastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana about a half hour after countless bits and pieces of the Columbia began raining down on the countryside.

The Continental U.S. NORAD Region diverted the two F-15s from the Air National Guard fighter wing near New Orleans to look for debris, it was explained.

"Our pilots spotted numerous debris locations and will provide further information only to FEMA and NASA officials," a spokesman said.

The Federal Emergency



Tech. Sgt. J.T. Lock

An F-15 Eagle from the 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard flies over the Gulf of Mexico, near Belle Chasse Naval Air Station.

Management Agency is the lead agency for coordinating the federal assistance and directing other federal agencies in the recovery of the Columbia's remains.

resume those flights, she explained.

Finding the debris will take a lot of time and manpower, predicted Maj. Michael Dietz, the team's

"Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more," **President George W. Bush**

The first two fighters searched throughout the morning and were replaced by two other F-15s at 1 p.m., said Dusty Shenofsky, spokesperson for the Louisiana National Guard.

That mission was suspended at dark Feb. 1, and the wing was not asked to

deputy commander, because it is scattered over some remote and rugged terrain."Nacogdoches, (Texas,) is the urban epicenter for the debris, and that's where a lot of it has been located because people live there," Dietz said.

Fulcrum Faceoff

125th Fighter Wing, Navy train against German MiGs



Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

125th Fighter Wing

Flying head-to-head against a MiG-29 is a rare opportunity for American fighter pilots. Florida Air National Guard and Navy Top Gun pilots got their chance this fall against the most formidable threat they could likely face in combat - the MiG-29 Fulcrum, flown by the German Air Force during Exercise Agile Archer 02.

Agile Archer 02 afforded pilots from the 125th Fighter Wing and Navy Top Gun the chance to test the latest tactical upgrades to their aircraft given the recent fielding of new software and hardware for both the F-15 and F-18 aircraft.

Germany's MiG-29 unit, the 73rd Fighter Wing, is based at Laage Air Base, near Rostock on the Baltic Coast. Before the reunification of Germany in 1990, the aircraft were flown by East Germany. Since reunification, the unit has become an operational wing,

with its 24 Fulcrums and 28 pilots becoming integrated with an F-4 unit from Pferdsfeld Air Base.

"The opportunity to train against a platform such as the MiG-29 is such a rare opportunity," stated Maj. Sami D. Said, 159th Fighter Squadron operations officer and project officer for the deployment. "Back at home, we can only simulate what would happen in combat with other F-15's."

The MiG-29 Fulcrum, which became operational in 1985, was designed and produced by the Soviet Union, and was considered to be the first Russian aircraft comparable in capability and performance to U.S. F-15, F-16, and F/A-18 aircraft. The MiG-29 is operated by many of the U.S.'s potential adversaries, including Iraq.

Although the training was in "no way geared toward any potential events that may or may not occur in Iraq," Said added that the training will better prepare the pilots for anything that may arise.

While the MiG's thrust-to-weight ratio, and maneuverability are comparable to current U.S. fourth generation fighters, the aircraft "has unique capabilities in



a close-in dogfight due to its helmet mounted sight, and AA-11 Archer infra-red guided missile system” according to Col. James A. Firth, 125th Fighter Wing commander.

Together, the helmet mounted aiming system, and the Archer missile give the MiG-29 the capability to shoot missiles in dogfight situations, in which current U.S. fighters cannot, added Firth.

Pilots were not the only 125th personnel who trained in the exercise.

A total of 310 wing personnel deployed in support of the exercise. To overcome the complexities of supporting troops from the 125th Fighter Wing, as well as the German Air Force, troops from services, personnel and communications were deployed. ✈

Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers recently captured this image of a German MiG-29, assigned to the JG-73 “Steinhoff” MiG-29 Squadron, training with a 125th Fighter Wing F-15 and a Navy F-18, during Agile Archer 02 over Key West, Fla.



Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Tunnel Vision

Colorado Guard trains for first response to weapons of mass destruction and hazardous material events

The Center for National Response hosts several multi-agency exercises each year. First responders from state, local and federal agencies, like these West Virginia state troopers, learn to leverage their strengths in a crisis.

Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Colorado Air National Guard

Nestled deep in the misty Appalachian coal country, a half-mile inside a West Virginia mountain, the damp walls are lit by stray light from the surface. Inside the tunnel, the chill in the air does not compare to the chill in the spines of the troops stepping over the injured and dying that litter the path.

More resembling a scene from a horror movie than a classroom, the mineshaft is not what most people would consider an ideal learning environment. But then Lt. Col. Fred Hoon and his 22-member team aren't "most people."

"This is type of environment that really takes us out of our comfort zone," said Hoon, the commander of the

Colorado National Guard's 8th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. "And in our business, that's exactly where we need to be." Hoon and his elite squad are in the business of assessing suspected nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological events.

To hone their skills as first responders, the Colorado Guardsmen participate in realistic and at times uncomfortable training at the Center for National Response near Standard, W. Va.

The CNR is open to civil and military organizations that respond to weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials events. The facility, once known as the West Virginia Turnpike Tunnel, is now one of the nation's leading emergency response training complexes. The facility is a two-lane, 2,800-foot long mountain tunnel with over 79,000 square feet of training space.

"We try to give folks a realistic look at what they may walk into someday," said J.B. Anderson, the CNR logistics manager. "(Weapons of Mass Destruction) events will never look like you think they will and the actors and effects we employ are meant to shake students out of any preconceived ideas that can cause them to overlook details."

Uniquely suited to meet the specialized training needs of WMD, Consequence Management and Counter Terrorism first responders, the CNR makes good use of its arsenal of special effects equipment-including a city bus, a subway mezzanine and platform, laid rubble props, over 25 passenger vehicles, three mobile homes and an 18-wheel tanker truck loaded with simulated hazardous materials.

In addition, the CNR staff has even constructed a 120-foot wide, 3-foot high passageway designed to train responders to operate in confined spaces. The combination of these life-size training aids and a concentrated curriculum quickly puts both student and equipment to the test.

"In our jobs, we have to always contend that we are not on scene to take care of the injured-and that

means we may have to walk over dead and dying people to gather a sample," said Master Sgt. Alren Woods of the 8th WMD-CST. "Touching an injured person puts us at risk, because they may be heavily contaminated with the suspected agent. We're there simply to get a sample, assess the situation, and get out. We're of no use to anyone if we're contaminated too. That kind of stimuli-people crying for help-can really make it difficult."

It can take several months to research and assemble a comprehensive training package that will meet the needs of a particular organization. Even preparation for shorter weekend courses may require weeks.

"Students have to think very carefully about every move they make," said Anderson. "From how they are going to execute their assignment, to how they are going to manage critical life support resources. Rescue missions can quickly turn into survival missions, simply because student teams exhaust their oxygen supply before they reach the injured."

"Training can be designed to give us the ultimate edge and to do that, the training has to be provided in a realistic scenario or setting," said Woods. "That's why we like training in large scale venues. Because we know very well that we may be walking into that same large scale venue and looking for products."

Multiple agencies train at the same time on the same incidents to force them to work together and understand each other's capabilities.

For example, one CNR scenario




Master Sgt. Deb Smith

A member of Colorado's 8th WMD-CST gathers samples of a suspected chemical or biological agent for analysis.

depicted an explosion at makeshift "crack-lab" in which the local responding law enforcement personnel found not only the concealed lab, but also a dead FedEx driver covered in a powdery white substance.

Once law enforcement personnel cleared the building and arrested the suspect, the WMD team was ready to decontaminate the officers, the suspect and send a survey team into the building to collect a sample of the suspicious white powder.

"Establishing good working relationships with other agencies is so valuable," said Woods. "Without them, you really hinder your ability to go out and do joint missions. By doing joint training, not only with other military units, but with other government agencies, we gain trust in what they can do and they gain trust in us." 

THE TOTAL FORCE

First Air Force intelligence award winners announced

The 1st Air Force Intelligence Awards Program winners for fiscal year 2002 were announced in January.

Nominations have been forwarded to Air Combat Command Headquarters for further competition at the major command level.

Level I: Outstanding Air Reserve component intelligence field grade officer of the year, Maj. Peter Antaramian; 1st Air Force, Outstanding Air Reserve component intelligence senior noncommissioned officer, Master Sgt. Donald Lowery, 1st Air Force.

Level II: Outstanding Air Reserve component intelligence field grade officer of the year, Maj. Deidra Fuller, 120th Fighter Wing; Outstanding Air Reserve component company grade officer of the year, 1st Lt. Matthew Cannady, Western Air Defense Sector; Outstanding Air Reserve component intelligence noncommissioned officer of the year, Tech. Sgt. George Saratsis, WADS; Outstanding Air Reserve component intelligence airman of the year, Senior Airman Matthew Johnson, 148th Fighter Wing; Outstanding enlisted intelligence contributor, Tech. Sgt. Ronald Sharp, 1st Air Force; Outstanding intelligence civilian contributor, Patricia Lacks, Southeast Air Defense Sector.

Air Force begins smallpox vaccination program

The Air Force chief of staff has directed the immediate implementation of the smallpox vaccination program in January.

In a Jan. 6 policy memorandum to major command commanders, Gen. John P. Jumper outlined details of the commanders' force pro-

tection program against the deadly biological warfare agent.

The first Air Force people to be vaccinated will be medical people and designated forces that constitute specific mission-critical capabilities.

Although vaccinations will begin immediately, the program's director said airmen would be vaccinated in stages.

As a minimum, people will receive a copy of the smallpox vaccine trifold available under the "Educational Products" icon at the Department of Defense smallpox Web site, www.vaccines.army.mil.

Smallpox vaccinations are given in a single dose, usually in the nondominant deltoid muscle (left upper arm for right-handed people, and vice versa). Revaccination is recommended every 10 years.

Airmen can file tax returns on Internet for no charge

The Treasury Department, office of management and budget and the Internal Revenue Service launched a new Web site Jan. 17 featuring private-sector partners who will allow eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their taxes online for free.

Each FFA member company sets taxpayer eligibility requirements for its own program. These requirements will differ from company to company.

Generally, eligibility will be based on factors such as age, adjusted gross income, state residency, military status or eligibility to file a Form 1040EZ or for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Taxpayers can review the list of companies, found on the Free File section of the IRS Web site, where requirements are shown company by company.

A Free File initiative fact sheet, which includes list of the FFA members and frequently asked questions, can be found online at www.irs.gov.



FTC offers guidance for identity theft prevention

A Federal Trade Commission booklet offers guidance for people who have fallen victim to a fast-growing crime: identity theft.

Defense Department officials believe that it is possible that some Tricare beneficiaries could be subject to identity thievery because of the Dec. 14 theft of office computers in Phoenix from military health-care contractor TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Identity thieves use such information to open up new credit accounts, running up thousands of dollars of illicit bills, which are charged to victims.

The publication is available online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

THE TOTAL FORCE



Staff Sgt. Scott Farley

German Air Force mechanics, Oberfeldwebel (E6) Frank Wustermann, a MiG-29 ground crew chief, and Stabsunteroffizier (E5) Daniel Rohrbeck, left, repair the landing gear on a MiG-29. The German sergeants were part of the JG-73 "Steinhoff" MiG-29 squadron deployed to Key West, Fla. for Agile Archer 02.

SEADS NCO named AF Outstanding Airman 2002

A Southeast Air Defense Sector NCO was recognized as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2002 during the Air Force Association's convention this fall in Washington, D.C.

Tech. Sgt. Caesar Kellum, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the airspace division, was nominated by the Air National Guard.

The SEADS aerospace control and warning systems enlisted weapons director was the only weapons director of the 36 tested to be rated exceptionally qualified and Air Combat Command recognized him as a superior performer during a compliance inspection.

The 12 OAY are awarded the outstanding Airman ribbon with the

bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year.

They also serve on the AFA Enlisted Council for one year.

Since 1956, the Air Force Association has recognized enlisted personnel for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement, and personal achievement. <http://www.afa.org/AboutUs/12oa.asp>.

DoD tests Space A travel for stateside dependents

Defense transportation officials have announced a one-year test to expand Space Available travel privileges to dependents traveling within the continental United States. The test will begin April 1 and continue through March 31, 2004.

Dependents of active duty and retired military people will soon be

able to travel "Space A" aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors, according to John Lundebly, Headquarters Air Mobility Command Passenger Policy Branch, "The only thing that has changed is that dependents can now fly on stateside to stateside flights under the same category of eligibility as their sponsor for travel in accordance with the DoD transportation regulations," said Lundebly.

Retirees may sign up for this program 60 days in advance but not before the test officially begins on April 1. Active duty sponsors must be in a leave or pass status to register for Space Available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel.

Additional Space A travel and sign-up information is available through AMC's public Web site at <http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm>. A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there.

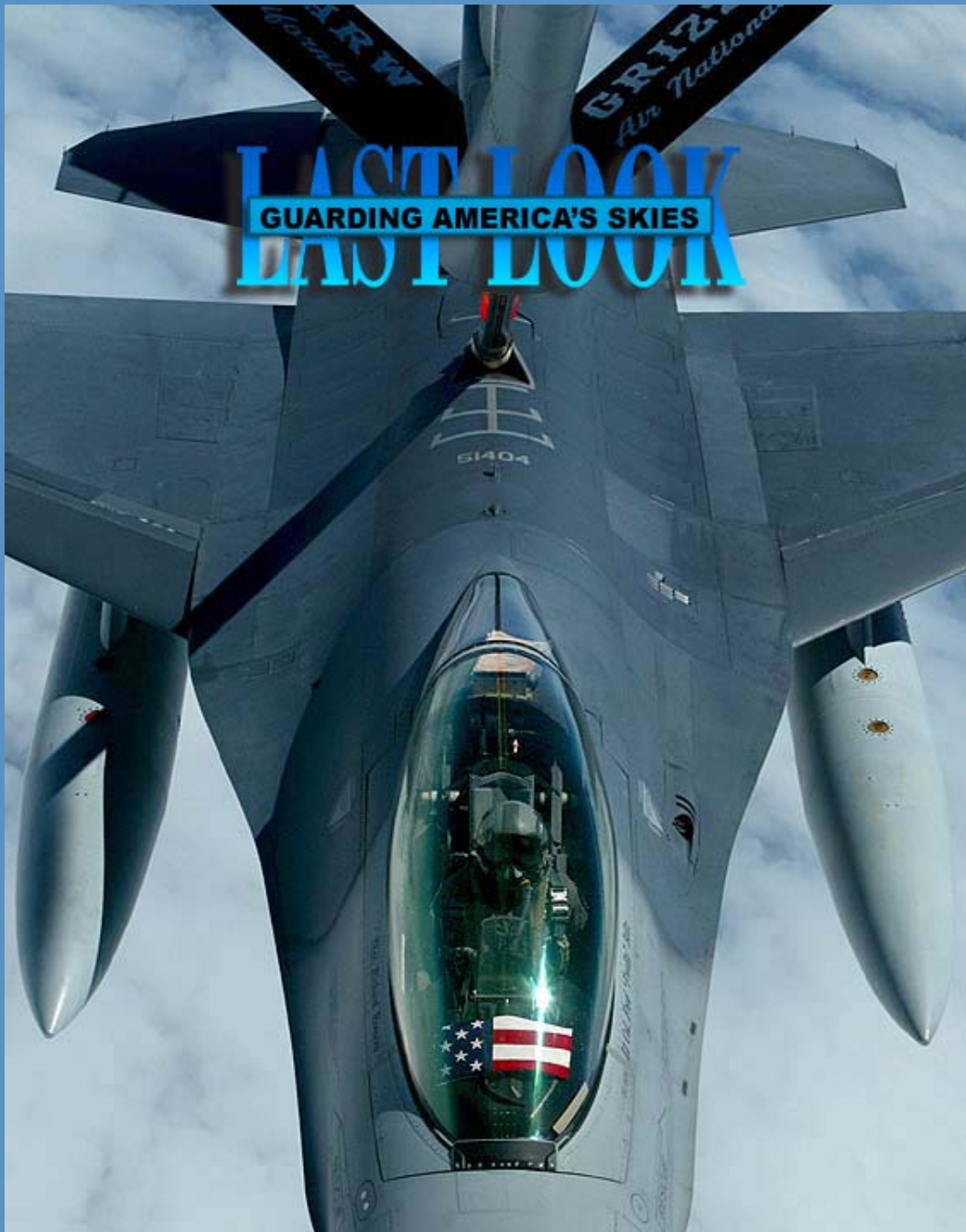
W-2s available on myPay

American military members and Department of Defense civilians can now view, save and print their W-2 wage and tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Military retirees and annuitants can view, save and print their tax form 1099s as well.

The myPay service provides a secure way for servicemembers, defense civilians, military retirees and annuitants to manage their pay account information available around the clock.

Customers with questions about myPay can call customer support at (800) 390-2348 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST.



Ken James

Over Moffett Field, Calif., a KC-135 from the 163rd Air Refueling Wing, March Air Force Base, refuels an F-16 from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno Air National Guard Base.

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